

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 31 as follows:

--Significantly, utilization of existing technologies gives rise to numerous issues concerning the protocols employed. The most essential aspect requiring further investigation is how protocol specification effort can be minimized by re-using existing protocols and functionality while preserving the functional specifications and performance goals that UMTS is setting. The UMTS concept is being developed and will be integrated with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as a proposal for an IMT-2000 standard. UMTS/IMT-2000 will provide ubiquitous wireless access to next-generation personalized services wherever suitable frequencies are available. Global Systems for Mobile Communication (GSM) [[GSM]] operators have several options for delivering enhanced services. For example, they may use GSM in the existing frequency spectrum to deliver UMTS/IMT-2000-capable services, they may use GSM and WCDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access) in the existing spectrum or they may use GSM and WCDMA in the existing spectrum combined with WCDMA in a new 2GHZ UMTS/IMT-2000 spectrum. All approaches offer low entry costs, a high degree of investment flexibility, since roll out can take place in line with market demand, as well as extensive reuse of existing GSM equipment. Not only does WCDMA offer full backwards compatibility with GSM, it fully draws on GSM as the core network, including well-proven GSM functionality.--

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

--A 3G radio access network (3G RAN) 2 is connected via an Iu interface (the interface between the radio network controller -RNC- and the core network as specified by the 3G standards) to the core network 7. Thus, in case a GSM MSC is used in the core network 7, the Iu interface must be adapted through an interworking unit (IWU) to the A interface of the GSM MSC. Furthermore, transcoders (TCs) (not shown) are located at the core network sides of the Ater interface and the ATM based Iu interface, wherein speech is transmitted in coded format over these interfaces. The TCs adapt the respective coding of the Ater interface and the Iu interface to the coding required for the open A interface of the core network 7. The TC arranged between the Iu interface and the A

interface is a 3G TC and may be located in the IWU or may be part of the radio network controller (RNC) provided in the 3G RAN 2. In the latter case, an Iu interface is not provided. Another possibility is to provide a dedicated 3G MSC for the 3G RAN 2.--

On page 9, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

--According to the preferred embodiment, the user data can be routed to the GW 5 through a separate network different from the one used for the control information. The separate network may be a packet network such as an ATM network or an IP network. The control signaling may use a [[TDMA]] Time Division Multiplex (TDM) or packet network, such as the user-plane ATM network or an IP network. Therefore, the SMSC 3 remains purely as an entity handling the control plane, such that TCs are no longer required between MSCs and radio access networks connected to the core network 7. The control signaling may be performed via packet network such as an IP network.--